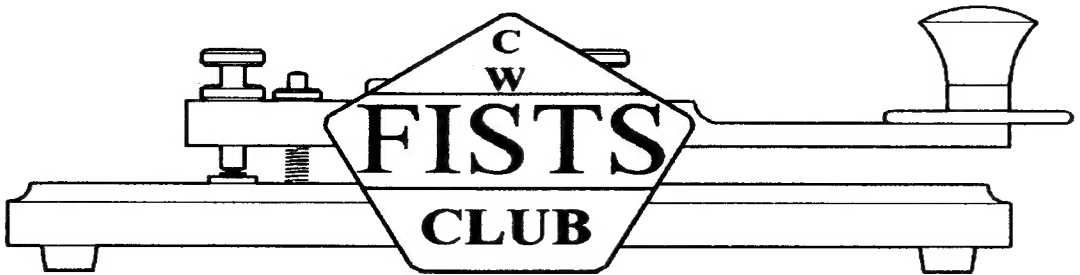


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I...

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$3.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50 Rubber stamps with the FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .75 FISTS Logo mugs are currently out of stock. These prices DO include first class postage.

...GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote twice a year and is also on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$1 (to defray costs- it's 10 pages long) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan K4UK, with the assistance of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handles FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards you may have waiting at the bureau, send K4UK a few SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE or made arrangements with Stan. His Email is stanreas@rev.net

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check/M.O. made out to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy WZ8C POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. **What's the Family Plan?** All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from Geo G3ZQS. Send their info to Geo 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe K5HLR 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR THE CENTURY or WAS AWARD? Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS #, date, band) and power used to Joe N3LBC, 222 E Bertsch St, Lansford PA 18232. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to HQ in England (119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs England BB3 2LZ) including sufficient return postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@aol.com

...SHARE COMPUTER SOFTWARE? Joe WZ8U 5428 Bolander Grand Blanc MI 48439

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION Contact Joe KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? send SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$6.95 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047
Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.

North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682
Slow Ragchewing Group: W8BI 8pm EST Wed on 3.720
Century Award Net: Sunday 1900Z (1500est/edt) on 14.058MHz
Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z
Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHZ at 1700Z

Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! Can you believe it? The Spring Sprint is just around the corner. And so it the Dayton Hamvention. And then Field Day! Before I forget, if you made reservations at the Double Tree in Miamisburg, call them and reconfirm your reservation. They had a computer glitch and lost their reservations for Hamvention weekend, can you believe it? What a mess they're going to have.

Our usual FISTS get-together is Friday evening at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Downtown Dayton (used to be Stouffers). It's in the same hotel as the DX banquet, so if you're attending the banquet it just hop in the elevator (if you can find an empty one, hi!) and ride up to the top floor to the Windows Lounge. We'll try to have more signs up this year to make it easier to find. Since there are so many other activities, people come and go throughout the evening, making it hard to plan a program. So, it's informal - stop by and meet your fellow FISTS, we'll have munchies and good CW conversation (can you ever get enough of that?)

A group of Ohio FISTS are thinking about joining the Michigan FISTS for Field Day this year. That would be wonderful! We have a terrific site that we've used for the last six or so years in Dryden MI, but if we can find a suitable place with camping facilities somewhere closer to the border I would not be opposed to a compromise location. Maybe some of the Indiana or Illinois FISTS would like to join us also? The more the merrier...

The Sprint is almost upon us. It's the second Saturday in May 1700Z - 2100Z. Mark your calendar!

I would like to take a minute and thank those involved with the FISTS Web page. Our presence on the Web has contributed to our growth. It also helps

keep costs down because Joe KK5NA doesn't have to send out as many prospective member info packs (thanks Joe!) At least a third of the new FISTS applications I receive have been downloaded and printed off the Web site. Now that I'm making my own personal Web site, I really appreciate the time and effort Bill KK4KF puts into maintaining and creating the page. And, of course, we couldn't have the page without the generosity of Lee N9NVV who is donating the space for the page. Thanks a million, guys!

I'm outta room, so on with your KeyNote...

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<u>CALLSIGN</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>STATE</u>
K3AAA	J.C.	4664		PA
W6TJY	George	4665	WA7MMG	CA
AL7FS	Jim	4666	WZ8C	AK
W6WDS	Robert	4667	KF6AUO	CA
WA1VAV	Bill	4668	K1MBX	MA
WG6M	Al	4669	W6DDB	CA
WB5OAU	John	4670	KB9GKX	NC
KB1BFD	Sal	4671	K1MBX	MA
KB0ZLS	Charlie	4672	KG8DA	MO
WD1B	John	4673	AA1RR	MA
WA8RXI	Rick	4674	AA0VF	MI
KU4GE	Michael	4675	W8DEA	KY
N7ELV	Steve	4676	KF4SEV	NV
AA9QE	Mike	4677	KI0KM	IL
KC7MZT	Jerry	4678	W8XP	MT
N3NKY	Russ	4679	AA3LX	PA
K9WVM	Al	4680	K9MIF	WI
KF0W	Bill	4681	webpage	CO
WB6BBX	Tim	4682	WA7MMG	CA
K4FAZ	Richard	4683		AL
KC8GTA	Art	4684	webpage	MI
W8YBO	Oren	4685	W2JSF	OH
KC8EVM	Andy	4686	W6DDB	OH
K9OSC	Robert	4687	W9LUY	WI
KB2WKL	MaryAnn	4688	W2FLN	NJ
W7HWR	Denis	4689		OR
K3USA	Dan	4690	KC4VI	PA
KB9IMR	Lance	4691	webpage	IN
KG2MV	Alan	4692	K4YKI	NJ
KD7ATJ	Bruce	4693		NV
KC7YUI	Vern	4694	KB7PIM	ID
KK5ZA	Bob	4695	WA3WEE	TX
AF4BD	Marvin	4696	KC8GFF	TN
WB7QQQ	George	4697	AC6TO	OR
W6AQ	Dave	4698		CA
VE6GSM	George	4699		ALB
AD6ES	Gary	4700	W6DDB	CA
KD7AKR	Phil	4701	AB7RK	WA
KA3MWN	Gordon	4702	K8EHE	MD
W9NN	Bob	4703	K9MIF	WI
KB2IOO	Jack	4704	N5JWL	NJ
NU7E	Walter	4705	KG9MT	WA
K7ZD	Gary	4706	N7RD	AZ
KB2QCW	Tom	4707		NY
W1CZ	Richard	4708	AI9L	NY
N8GN	George	4709	AI9L	OH
KJ1O	Dick	4711	KB4OPV	NH
KE6YT	Lauren	4712	W3RMD	CA
WA4BNO	Dick	4713	WB8OZX/K6DF	NC
N7DW	Russell	4714	KE6YNR	CA
K3ALS	Bill	4715	web page	PA

K9TD	Alan	4716	W6DDB	IN
N2RX	Howie	4717	KE4TSS	NY
K9UQ	Don	4718	KB9OVS	IL
KC4KF	Mark	4719	K4UK/W4BX	TN
WD9IS	Peter	4720	N9EXY	IL
W3FZ	Phil	4721	N5MMB	AZ
W3IM	Gard	4722	N3AO	PA
KE4CA	Warren	4723	ZP6CW	VA
W0XC	Cap	4724	N1FN	CO
AA1NZ	Tom	4725	K7UF	NH
WT4TOM	Tom	4726	WB2FXK	GA
KB7DZH	Peck	4727	K8FD	WA
W4BW	Prose	4728	K4UK	FL
KC8INH	Larry	4729		MI
KF2JC	Duane	4730	WB2FXK	NY
KD4LBJ	Harry	4731	W4HZD	TN
WB2UJS	Frank	4732	KA5QYR	NY
AC5EZ	Larry	4733	K5HLR	TX
NG3W	Chris	4734	AE4AI	PA
KA0VJX	Dennis	4735	K3QA	IA
KK4LS	Eugene	4736	WB2FXK	FL
W7BO	John	4737	K7FD	WA
K8AI	Curt	4738	webpage	MI
K6KRD	Ken	4739		CA
KE6ZSN	John	4740	AD6EF	CA
K8NL	Jack	4741	K0MPC	OH
W6JUS	Bill	4742	N3RSD	CA
WD5HFT	Walt	4743	WB0CFF	TX
KC8GLV	Jim	4744	KT4YY	OH
N3AQQ	Charles	4745		SC
KC9DD	Bruce	4746	KA8ZDL	IL
W9FRC	John	4747	KB4PEV	IL
KC0COP	Dave	4748	K7GT	CO
W8VEL	Paul	4749		OH
W0QIK	Thor	4750	W0UFO	MN
W5AIX	Woody	4751	AF5Z	TX
W2DNJ	Bob	4752	KB9LG	NY
AA1LL	Paul	4753	webpage	NH
K3ROJ	Al	4754	W3JIM	MD
AL7O	Gary	4755	W4GTM	AK

PhotoPage Winner!

The PhotoPage Winner for the month of April is Harry Scroggins, **KI5UK**, of Tunica, MS. He wins a supply of FISTS stickers & a FISTS logo patch just for sending in his photo! A computer generated random drawing is made each month from all those who have sent in a photo. You could be the lucky winner next month! Send your photo (with your face about the size of a quarter) to W8ROG, 44069 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

How Do I....Questions and Answers

Regarding the Gold and Platinum Awards: These are British awards. Info about them has been printed mostly in the British part of the Keynote. The Platinum is earned by working 100 different Century Award Holders after June 1, 1997. The Century Award number must be given during the QSO. Since a Century Holder could be either DX or NA, the info is kept track of across the Pond. Joe N3LBC (the North American Awards Manager and I don't keep a list of them, so I can't print info I don't have! A list of Century Holders is printed periodically in the BRITISH part of the Keynote. The Gold is earned by working 500 points of FISTS members. DX FISTS are worth 2 points (as defined by DXCC rules), local FISTS are worth 1 point. Affiliated club callsigns are three points. Each member can only be counted once. To apply for these awards, send logs directly to England and include \$2 postage.

I'll let Stan K4UK, our Bureau Manager take it from here: One of the questions which comes up most often from my "helpers" in the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club is: "What should we do with the QSL's for stations who are not FISTS members?"

Rather than tossing them in the trash can, we feel we should send them back to the member who sent them in. One main reason for doing so is that the call on the card may have simply been written wrong.

For example: The call letters may have been transposed. Such as writing N4EVF instead of N4VEF. Or, the wrong number may have been put in the call sign, such as K2ZDI instead of K1ZDI. Or, the wrong prefix may have been put on the call sign, such as WB4OPV instead of KB4OPV.

We do try to determine if the apparent non-FISTS call is simply a mistake. If the card includes the FISTS number of the station worked, we can often determine if the call has been written incorrectly and will generally send the card to the member who holds that FISTS number.

Even if the FISTS number is not shown, we try to tie down who the card is for by checking the name if any notes are on the card. For example if the call on the card is W2SWZ, but includes a note such as "Tnx Bernie for the FB QSO", we can deduce that the card should probably be for K2SWZ. Often the card will be for a previous call. We do try to keep up to date with the changed call information which Nancy provides us and prints in the KeyNote.

But when all that fails, we must assume that the card is either for a non-FISTS station or some mistake in writing the call has been made. In any case we can't do anything with the card, so we will be sending it back with a stick-on note reading: "Not a FISTS member".

Changes

Gary KC5PPO, #2924, is now AC5PE.

Gil KE1FE, #3492, has his grandfathers old callsign now, WA1LAD.

Dean N0SIZ, #4157, is now KI0LL.

Wes N1WL, #2697, has his father's callsign W1LIC.

Gary WA7NTF, #3951, is now W7NTF.

Congratulations To....

Dave **KF6DCU**, #2398 on his upgrade to Extra!

Dean **KI0LL**, #4157 on his upgrade to Advanced!

Mike #3005 for getting his first ticket (Advanced) and callsign **KG9ML**!

Mike **KE4UKX**, #2079, passed his Extra!

Matt **KE4UKY**, #2341, passed the Extra!

Roy **N3ZGZ** #3544, passed his Extra!

Michael **KA7PLE**, #4549, for acing his General!

Corrections

I must have had a lot on my mind when I typed the Keynote last month, I made some typos that were very scatterbrained!

This is a correction to the correction of the correction: **Gerald #1019 is N4GD**, I had him incorrectly as N4DG in last months correction.

Charlie **KA8OQF** was incorrectly ID'ed as KA8OUF

Frank **N3RSD** was incorrectly ID'ed as N4RSD.

John **KA9RZL**, was listed incorrectly as KA2RZL.

Dwight **W9YQ**'s call was wrong on page 21 Issue 3.

There was an error in the article I reprinted from MORSEls, the Morse 2000 Outreach magazine. This is from Dr King, who writes the newsletter:

"This issue of MORSELS had more glitches than normal--and surely more than we'd like. One substantive item is re Arnold Reinhold's fine article on the Morse code pocket card. "Z" zed is of course "dah-dah-di-dit" (_..).

Gremlins can and do creep in to production at times!

Tom King, UWEC

News and Views from FISTS Members

From Lionel **AA1RX**, #3135: Enclosed is my renewal check. I enjoy the KeyNote very much, read it cover to cover. Been a ham for a short time, since May of 1996. Enjoy CW, 98% of QSOs are CW. I'm 70 years old and having fun in my old age.

From Mark **N6MNZ**, #4056: Thanks to FISTS encouraging upgrading I just went from General to Advanced to Extra within the last month. I also applied for Century Award last weekend. So things are moving forward HiHi. ...now for my next goal ??? *Congrats on the upgrades Mark! I'm glad to hear FISTS was a help to you.*

KF9EI, #3040, used to go by the name Woody, but since he's retired from work, he prefers to use his real name Forrest. People are getting confused because they check their FISTS membership lists after working him on the air and it lists #3040 as Woody. You aren't copying incorrectly - he's just changed his name. The list will be updated to reflect the name change.

Wes **W1LIC** is very proud to put his father's call-sign back on the air. He enjoys CW today because of his father's influence. Wes sez one of his ham friends who doesn't like CW was commenting recently how he hadn't been able to get on the air because he had been suffering with a case of laryngitis. Wes' response was that laryngitis wouldn't stop him from being able to get on the air because he operates CW!

From Michael **KA7PLE**, #4549: I just upgraded to General on Saturday (I aced the Test). I am a new member of FISTS, I just received my first copy of KeyNote. I am looking forward to all the CW bands now available to me. I am excited beyond belief! *Congrats Michael -- Get your feet wet with your new privileges by checking into one of our nets and joining in our Spring Sprint!*

From Dick **WA7SNY** regarding the ongoing debate regarding "QTP", which has been said to mean "To Potty" (as in, be right back I'm taking a potty break): I've heard QPP bandied abt in jest but To Potty - give me a break! I'm sure **W4JTU** was sincere in his reasoning, but the response falls more into the face-tious category then into one that most would believe, but thanks for the response. I've *heard it used that way, Dick! Any other suggestions for QTP?*

From Arley, **WB5NKC**: If any of us have an 'elderly' traffic handler, or a CW op in a nursing home, please contact your ARRL Section Manager and request that an award be presented to them. We here in Oklahoma have Nina Wallace, **K5TEY**, in a nursing home in West Tulsa.

I talked our Section Manager **N5OK**, into getting an award for Nina, rather than wait for her to become a Silent Key before any award be offered. She has handled many, many pieces of traffic for both the amateurs and MARS. She was active in the Korean War era. Nina is a 'contemporary' of Mae **W3CUL**. In fact, probably, she handled much of Mae's traffic. *That's a terrific idea, Arley. I can imagine how much that must have meant to Nina. Awards like that are often given after a ham becomes a Silent Key - just think how much joy you bring to someone to let them know they are appreciated while they are still here!*

From Dave **KF6DCU**, #2398, Guess it's that time of year again for me. Subs are due! To tell you the truth, it marks sort of a milestone for me each year. FISTS Subs are due, and it causes time to stop and think about all the great times I've had and friends I've made.

Since my membership with FISTS started only a month after I got my License two years ago, it also is a measure as to what progress I've made. Maybe becoming a better operator, and being more knowledgeable in Ham Radio. My code speed has improved, as I've passed my 20 wpm code test. My knowledge of theory has improved, got my Advanced ticket. My desire to roam the parts of the CW bands only reserved for Extra Class tickets has motivated me to take my Extra theory next week. Much of this has occurred in the past year. As I'm writing this note and enclosing my check for next year's subs I can only wonder what the next twelve months will be like...so many more great FISTS QSO's, old and new FISTS buddies and maybe an upgrade. FISTS has provided me with a great deal of fun and laughs. I hope everyone else is having as good a time as me. Thanks for the good times FISTS Buddies!

Mike #3005 got his first ticket - Advanced! His call is now **KG9ML**. He's setting up his first station and can't hardly wait to start, so watch for our newest FISTS ham on the air!

March 29: W8FAX/NCS, KC5VJU, K7FD, VE5HQ, N1TP, VE4GEC, AI8Z/M, W8BL, K7FFF, N7IF, WA6RND, KB7ZO, N4VEF, K0HFK, K7PGL, N1TP, N5LF AND N7IF. NCS Comments: We had the worst cndx since I started the net. The band kept changing on us and we couldn't hear each other. This will get very interesting as the cycle continues to increase the flux level and we get into solar flares, R.F. blackouts, and very hi atmospheric noise. These are also results of the sunspots, so it's not going to be all "DX" Oh well, we will do our best. Maybe we will start to get some DX checkins later.

April 5: W8FAX/NCS, KQ6NS, WA6RND, N5VC, W5ZR, AC6TO, VE4GEC, K6FFF, K6DF, K4VM/4, K8EY, KS6Z, KB7ZO. NCS Comments: There was a lot of FISTS generated QRM on the freq this time too. Folks calling CQ and trying to have QSO's on top of us. Oh well. We need to get the word out that the net time is 1500 est/edt. That makes the start time at 1900 Z. I think we should post it as 1500 EST/EDT tho so the change back and forth for daylight time is automatic and less confusion.

IL/WI FISTS: Look for FISTS table at the Cedarburg, WI SWAPFEST on May 2, 1998 Tnx de John W9ISC

Slow Code 2 Meter Net

The USECA club in Utica MI has a CW practice net each Monday at 9 PM on the 147.180 repeater. This is a cyclical net which runs in 6 week cycles to teach and help those who want to learn the code. Its purpose is to take students from 0 to 5 words per min. so they can pass the tech + code exam. The net is run by **W1IK** and has been very successful. Jim has helped a number of Hams and would-be Hams to learn the code. Every class or net is a step toward keeping CW a viable mode. Tnx and 73 Bill **WA8JPR** #3215

New FISTS Affiliated Club

We have a new FISTS affiliated CW club, FISTS Northwest near Portland Oregon. The club call is **K7FFF**, #4400, trustee is Casey **KS7J**. It's intended as a loose affiliation of ham who share an interest in

the use and promotion of CW to communicate on amateur radio bands.

There is no formal club charter, bylaws, explicit rules or policies, newsletter, and no secret decoder rings. There are also no dues! Casey is volunteering his time and money to get the club off to its modest start. Membership is open to anyone residing in WA, OR, and ID. You do not need to be a FISTS member or a ham to be a member of FISTS Northwest.

It is expected that you already appreciate the use of Morse code for radio communications and the skill, art, and technical advantages of this mode. Anyone wishing to become a member of FISTS Northwest please contact Casey **KS7J**, with your call, FISTS number (if applicable), mailing address and any biographical information that you think might interest other members and any suggestions as to the future development of the club. There are a limited supply of **K7FFF** QSL cards that will be issued in thirty card batches, free of charge, to new members on a first-come first-served basis. SASE's appreciated.

Planned are: A FISTS Northwest website and bulletin board. On-air practice sessions with operators in the Novice bands. Keep your eyes out for an announcement of a "Triple-Triple" weekend event with **K6FFF** (Vista Valley FISTS CW Club, QTH CA) and **WA7YYY** (Cowlitz FISTS Amateur Radio Club, QTH WA).

FISTS Northwest hopes that the club provides a regional focal point for the wonderful art of CW communication and the satisfaction it brings to those who use it. For more information or to apply for membership send a note to: FISTS Northwest, **K7FFF**, c/o Casey Bahr, 24250 SW Drake Lane, Hillsboro, OR 97123-7549

e-mail: casey@imagina.com or casey.bahr@intel.com

A 40 Meter Sunday FISTS Net?

Rick **VE3FMC**, # 2767, is interested in starting a FISTS Century Award Net on Sunday mornings at 1400Z on 7.108MHz He says many FISTS in the East cannot work the FISTS who check in to the 20 Meter Net.

He's looking for five or six others to volunteer as Net Control stations so you can rotate responsibility and it wouldn't tie up any one person every Sunday morning. Rick's Email address is

<ve3fmc@rac.ca> or he's good in the callbook. He says "Any suggestions etc will be greatly appreciated, hey I've never started a net!" Drop him a line!

Progress

by Chuck KB2E

If testing for radio amateurs becomes easier, we should familiarize ourselves with some possible test situations. One situation is a question with only one choice for an answer. In the following the correct answers are all "A."

1. *If you lose a new DX country contact because a 10-KW USA station keeps calling through the DX-ers QSO's, you should:*

A. Send the USA ham a talking greeting card which, upon opening, says, "(call of offending USA station) DE (call of rare DX), SRI OM, UR QRMD BY (call of offending USA station.)"

2. *If you make contact with an Italian ham you should:*

A. Begin by saying your goodbyes, as this will take at least an hour. Bless them. Learn "ciao," and the Italian words for mother, grandmother, children, and the one that means "for many generations in either direction."

3. *If you are XTAL controlled and there is only one other QSO on the band, it will be on your frequency because:*

A. You used all your toothpaste to polish the panel on your rig instead of the xtal, thus changing its frequency, or your teeth.

4. *A ham widow is:*

A. The former mate of a boar.

5. *If a DX station sends "PSE QSL VIA BURO," don't do it because:*

A. He misspelled "burro."

6. *"We'll settle this with our FISTS" means:*

A. Wearing boxing gloves, contestants will send code under Marquis de Queensbury rules.

7. *"A1," formerly an emission mode and/or steak sauce, now refers to :*

A. The lowest rating of a junk bond, just as "giant" shrimp means "microscopic."

8. *QRM, or "Q.R.Mary," is best known as:*

A. Queen Regina Mary, Queen of Scotch, and president of a drinking and QSOing club.

9. *The Internet will not replace CW because:*

A. Net users think prosigns are a New Age part of the Zodiac.

10. *CW will live forever because of:*

A. FISTS

FISTS Sprint Thoughts

by Garie K8KFJ (FISTS #1732)

I really enjoy contesting but I have some concerns about how we FISTS define our Sprints. It seems in some circles that the Sprints should be approached as more of a social event than a contest. My own humble opinion is that we can't have it both ways (either it's a contest or it isn't). I've never entered very many contests where there was time to exchange pleasantries (much less the greatly shortened contests called Sprints).

My feeling is that there are many days out of the year whereby one can meet new FISTS friends and rag chew with them (I hear this almost every day on 20 and 40 meters). I personally don't feel that the Sprint is the place for this type of activity.

Some say that it's an individual choice (as to hit the Sprint hard for a high score...or meet new and old FISTS friends and chat a minute or so). I can tell you having worked the NCJ Sprints where the exchanges are more of the 30+ wpm variety than not....that about the last thing I want to happen during a Q is for someone to ask me how long I've been a FISTS, etc. Time is a very critical factor in a short Sprint. One has to manage time very judiciously if one is to do well score-wise.

One thing I'm not very proud to admit is that I entered the Pennsylvania QSO Party during our Fall Sprint (think they both fell on the same weekend) simply because I knew I'd find more of a contest attitude among the PA folks than the Sprint group.

Anyway that's my 2 cents worth. Perhaps I take contesting too seriously.... dunno. With some people, competitiveness is quite a distance down their priority ladder (and I can certainly understand that). But I feel FISTS has tried to form a style of contesting which (for many of us) just doesn't exist in the real world.

Our Spring Sprint is coming up in May. I think Garie has a point. The tone of our Sprints is laid back, but they are a contest. Being laid back means being tolerant and patient with those who are going slower than you and slowing down to work them. It means being friendly when someone adds a "nice to meet you" to the contest exchange info. On the other hand, contesting means not going into detail about your rig or the weather. Can't we compromise here and be friendly, competitive and have fun at the same time?

QRP With John Shannon K3WWP

This month some info about QRP and the Internet. I know more and more of you have Internet access because a large percentage of the visitors to my Internet site mention they came because they saw my URL in the Keynote or came via the FISTS web site.

Also I can tell from the constantly expanding list of members that have Email. For newcomers to the Internet, a URL is like a street address telling where to find my site among the millions of sites on the Internet. The URL for my web site is <http://www.alltel.net/~johnshan>.

What can be found on the Internet? I would accurately say, virtually anything. It's like having every library, museum, reference source, etc. right in your own home. The problem is finding the specific info you want. To get around this, there are special web sites devoted to searching the web to find what you want. For example, you can go to the Altavista site, tell it to search for QRP, and it will return a very long list of URL's directing you to web sites dealing with QRP. Or if you wanted to find my web site, but forgot my URL, you could ask one of the search web sites (or search engines) to find K3WWP. It would then return my URL, and you could go directly to my site. It would also return many other web sites (some search engines list around 300 URL's) that contain my call letters.

Most web sites also have a list of links or URL's to other sites that deal with similar material. For example on my site I have, among many others, links to other sites that feature material on QRP and CW.

Let's deal now with a few specific topics. I get a lot of feedback from this column asking about the various QRP kits that are available. The easiest way to find out about these kits is to look on the Internet. Most all kit manufacturers (and most every business in general, as well) now have Internet sites to promote their products. If you want to see info about the QRP kits, come to my site, go to my Links section, and then to my QRP Equipment page. From now on, I'll shorten that to Links-QRP Equipment (section-page) when I refer to a page on my site. There you'll find links to the Norcal 38 Special, Oak Hills Research, Ten-Tec, and Small Wonder Labs, just to mention a few.

If you build your own QRP gear, go to Links-Hmbw Info Parts where I list many manufacturers and distributors of parts such as Digi-Key, Mouser, etc. Many of these sites are set up so you can order any parts you need over the Internet connection while

you are visiting. Do you still use vacuum tubes like I do? Well, this page has links to tube suppliers also.

Are you into QRP contesting? I know several of you are. Check out Contesting-May (or whatever month you're interested in) where I have a list of all the contests that involve CW for that month. With each contest listing, there is a link to the rules, and an indication if the contest gives bonus points for QRP or has a separate QRP entry category.

In Contesting-Results, you can submit your QRP score from any contest you enter. Submission rules are at the bottom of the page. This is just a new feature, and K8UCL, N2CQ, and KB3BFQ have already contributed. Contesting-Tips gives many helpful tips that should help the QRP contester to better their performance.

Interested in finding out just what can be accomplished using QRP in everyday operating? Check out Awards-DXCC (or WAS, WAC, etc). There I list what I have done using 5W or less into simple wire antennas. It's something you can do also, if you give QRP a try.

The QRPer is always interested in getting his hard earned QSO's verified. A feature of my site I am especially proud of is QSLing-Find a QSL Route. On this page you can type in the callsign of the station you are interested in getting an address for, and the info will be returned to you. I don't do all the hard work, I just bring together many of the popular callsign server sites into one convenient place. This way, if you can't find that address in one, just try another one. This one page provides access to callsign info from most countries of the world. It's one feature I use myself all the time.

While not strictly a QRP matter, you will also be interested in CW-Links or Links-CW Information. I can't begin to tell you all the info available here. You'll just have to try it yourself.

And finally, Special Features-****. Here you'll find among other things, Teenage Hams and CW. For CW to continue we need the teens to use it. This feature has reports from teens telling why they love CW.

Well, I'm out of space again. Sometimes I could go on and on in these columns, but I realize Keynote is a forum for everyone, and my info is not any more important than anyone else's, so I try to limit myself to one full page to allow room for everyone else. Want to contribute to my column? Email me at johnshan@alltel.net or regular mail at John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Thanks to the many who have already written and contributed. 73 -30-

Ask The FISTS

With our membership numbers quickly closing in FISTS #5000, we have an enormous pool of CW/homebrewing/troubleshooting/homebrewing knowledge in our little group. Each month in this column I'd like to take advantage of that wealth of information and share it. If you have a question or little trick to make things better in the shack, please send it in.

I bet there are more than a few FISTS who have an old bug gathering dust on their shack table because they aren't sure how to set it up - give this a try and get it on the air. If you start now, you may be able to get it into action in time to show off on Field Day! Mac W9NLA #3610 shares his suggestions for making it a pleasure to use your bug. Mac writes:

1 - It is extremely difficult to send reliable code if the bug tends to move about. Many methods have been used to "anchor" the bug where you want it. Primary importance dictates you pick the spot on the table that is very comfortable for you to rest your arm at, with the hand at the sending position, and if possible some support on the area between the wrist and elbow.

Over the years there have been a lot of ways to anchor the bug. If it is to be left in "one" position, then a fence type enclosure can be used to keep it in place. I use the newer rubber grid pattern materials the ladies use to keep the dishes from moving about in the RV's, etc. After time you will develop a bit lighter touch and not shove the bug off the table signing on/off or in a frenzy after that QSO.

2 - Adjust the left/right stops so that you feel comfortable rolling the hand, left/right with the heel of the hand resting on the table. At this point do not worry about the contacts for the "dots", other than they have to be somewhere making it, and the "swing" between the dots and dashes feels good. I generally place the sliding weight so that the dots will vibrate the contact, visibly, at what I consider a reasonable speed. You do not have to count them, they do have to be making contact with the post though. Do not try to get too fast in speed. You can always "up" it, and once adjusted it will seem pretty comfortable.

3 - The contacts tend to make an other than "flat" contact, so, you should make sure that the face of the contact is wiping the face of the other one as flat as possible. With the chrome bug I can use it as a mirror and see what is happening, you may need a mirror

or some slight bending, gently, to make it hit flat. This is a problem, in particular, with the "dits" post but the other one can be changed also if it is not right.

4 - Now for the "nitty gritty". If the weight is at what you feel you could copy the "dits" at, and the "swing" between the two seems good, let us proceed. An analog VOM is almost a must but am sure there will be those out there who will have other methods. Let us say I find an analog VOM my choice. You decouple the bug from any device, and place the test leads at the output terminals of the bug. No polarity to be observed. Hold the DASH key and ZERO the VOM on the lowest resistance scale. Now, key the "DITS", and by moving the contact on the post closer to or farther from the moving contact, you look for a 1/2 scale reading. It will follow the dits, but, if you have it at about the 1/2 scale, you are fine.

5 - Following this procedure will produce very clear and clean characters on the bug, in particular if you have clean contacts. My preventive maintenance, about every 4 to 6 months time, is to use a piece of course paper, such as a blotter or that type of thing, to go between the contacts, back and forth, and then - re-check your "nitty gritty" - above.

6 - I do not have the problem but some find they like to alter the speed that they send by changing the positions of the weight on the bug. It will throw the "DIT" contact settings off to do so. I suggest that you set the bug to what you like to send at and any changes can be made by spacing between the characters sent or by using the "hand key" method of the Dash side of the bug.

Now, once adjusted, have some fun. Use the old reliable rythm exercise that sounds good.

BEST BENT WIRE TENNESSEE

When you get that nice and rolling and all - you may even develop what was the Lake Erie Swing.

Bob N1HOG, #3142, shares an easy solution to switch from an electronic keyer in his rig to a straight key. He uses a Radio Shack adapter that allows two 1/4" stereo plugs to be in electrical contact with the rigs keyer jack. All he has to do to switch from paddle to key is to touch the keyer switch to shut off the keyer circuit. There is no more rushing around to untangle wires and hustling to push and pull plugs. Bob adds that straight keys are FB for QRS.

FISTS Code Buddy Program

Hello FISTS! I wanted to take a couple of lines in this month's Keynote to introduce myself. My name is John Cmiel - W9EM. I am the newly appointed FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator.

First, I'd like to thank Ed Breneiser, WA3WSJ, for all the work he has done to make the FISTS Code Buddy Program a success. Ed is pursuing other interests and his time is at a premium. He will not be able to continue as the program coordinator. Thanks, Ed! I'm sure I speak for the entire membership when I say that we appreciate all the time and effort you've spent creating and administering the program. We wish you well in your new endeavor.

There may be some members, especially our newer members, that may not be familiar with the FISTS Code Buddy Program. Let me take a couple of minutes and give you some of the highlights.

We all know that there is no better way to improve your CW skills than to have "on the air" contacts. But, they can be frustrating and embarrassing when you meet operators that send too fast or are beyond your capabilities and not willing to slow down and help you.

We have all been there. It can be a tough, frustrating, even a scary experience.

SRI OM QRM QRM 73 BCNU SK. BANG! Shut off the rig. WHEW! I'm glad that's over with. I may NEVER try that again. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FUN!!! Does this bring back a memory?

I remember back to my days as a novice (WD9AKE). It was 1977. There was a big push to add members into the HAM fraternity and there were a lot of operators that were at the same level that I was (new, slow and inexperienced). I had an Elmer, WB9LJW, that spent countless hours with his students turning them into CW operators and helping them reach that illusive General Class License. Thanks Bob. I'll never forget your dedication, patience and understanding. It was still stressful from time to time, and I think it may be even more difficult today.

Well, there is good news. We have a better way. The FISTS Code Buddy Program is a great way to work one on one with an experienced, friendly operator that understands your needs. Your personal Code Buddy will become a friend that will send slowly enough for you to copy and will provide you with the

ability to learn proper operating techniques. If you are new to CW, or just need a "brush up", your Code Buddy will work with you at a comfortable rate as you gain speed and experience and most importantly, confidence.

We have a number of our members that have volunteered to assist. These are the Code Buddies, and they are the foundation of this program. They are typically "seasoned" CW operators that will establish a schedule with you to give you actual "on the air" practice sessions.

It's a great way to improve your CW operating ability, meet other members and establish new friendships that may last for years. It doesn't make any difference whether your primary interest is contesting, traffic handling, or rag chewing, etc. We have the perfect Code Buddy for you. It's a very worthwhile program and one that I'm sure you will enjoy.

Now, a little about the role of the coordinator. My job is to keep track of all the Code Buddies and the Students and initially "hook them up" so you can establish schedules that are mutually convenient. I'll try to find common equipment capabilities, times of the day and areas of common interest, etc. So, please send me as much information about yourself as you can to help me find you a compatible Code Buddy or Student.

I will also follow up from time to time to see how things are going. If for any reason the Code Buddy and the Student can't connect, I have a list of other Code Buddies and Students that can be substituted.

I'm in process of creating a computerized file of Code Buddy information. If you are an existing Code Buddy or a Student working with a Code Buddy, please let me know (I need your help, the old FISTS files are not available). If this program sounds interesting and you would like to be a Code Buddy or a Student, great, let me know that also. I'll put you in the data base and share it with other interested members. Please send your information to me at:

Email: w9em@aol.com

or

John Cmiel - W9EM

34020 N. Hickory Ave.

Grayslake, IL 60030-1014

Thanks for your support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you would like additional information about the FISTS Code Buddy Program. 73 John - W9EM

TELEGRAPH AND RADIOTELEGRAPH CODES

AN

INTRODUCTION By K. Miller, VE7CTW

The Morse alphabet, which is employed to create the sounds used in landline telegraphy in Canada and the United States, is composed entirely of linear characters formed of dots and dashes, and by combinations of the two. The letters c, o, r, y, and z, and the symbol "&" "%", ",", and others are composed of dots and spaces. There are no spaces in any of the letters composed of dashes.

The alphabet is as follows:

A . _	O . .
B _ . . .	P
C . . .	Q
D _ . .	R . . .
E .	S . . .
F . . .	T _
G _ _ .	U . . _
H	V . . . _
I . .	W . _ _
J _ . _ .	X . _ . .
K _ _ .	Y
L _ _ _ [long dash]	Z
M _ _ _	N _ .

The figures are as follows:

1 . _ _ .	2 . . _ . .	3
4 _	5 _ _ _ .	6
7 - - . . .	8 _ . . .	9 _
0 _ _ _ _ _	[very long dash]	

Punctuation marks used in the Morse system are:

Comma	. _ . _
Question Mark	_ . . _ .
Capital Letter _ .
Small Letter	. . _ _ _ .
Shilling Mark	. . _ .
Pounds Sterling	_
Exclamation Point	_ _ _ .
Colon	_
Dollar Sign _ .
Colon Dash	_
Not Code	. _ _ .
Parenthesis (open) (close)	
Apostrophe	. . . . .
Quotation Marks (Open) (Close)	
Quotation Marks Within A Quotation	
. . . . . (	. . . . . (Close)
Brackets	_
Dash	_
Hyphen _ .
Semicolon	. . . . .
Period	. . _ . .
Paragraph Mark	_ _ _ .
Percent	. . . . .
And Symbol (&)	. . . .

The difference between the Morse and Continental (International) codes are shown in the following list.

Morse. Continental.

C	_ . . .
F _ . .	. . . .
J _ _ . .
L _ _ [long dash]	. . . .
O . .	_ _ _ .
P _ . .
Q	_ _ . .
R . . .	. . .
X	_ . . .
Y	_ . . .
Z	_ . . .

Numerals

1 . _ _ .	. _ _ _ _ .
2 _ _ _ .
3 _ .
5 _ _ .	. . . . .
6	_

The punctuation marks in the Continental (International) Code are as follows:

Period	. _
Colon	_ _
Semicolon	. . . . .
Exclamation	(None)
Comma	_
Question Mark	. . _ . .
Hyphen	_
Apostrophe	. _
Parenthesis	. . . . . (Open)
	. . . . . (Close)
Quotation Mark	. . . . . (Open/Close)

COMMONLY USED WIRE SIGNALS

The following wire signals were used in the same manner as Q-Signals are today. They simplify and speed up the exchange of commands, control, and information. Some are obviously needed for special purposes, e.g. scheduling trains, but the majority have a direct correlation to our current list of Q and QN Signals.

- | | |
|--|---|
| WIRE- Preference over everything except 95 | 25- Busy on another wire |
| 1- Wait a moment | 26- Put on grand wire |
| 2- Important business | 27- Priority, very important |
| 3- What time is it? | 28- Do you get my writing? |
| 4- Where shall I go ahead? | 29- Private, deliver in sealed envelope. |
| 5- Have you business for me? | 30- No more -end |
| 6- I am ready | 31- Form 31 train order |
| 7- Are you ready? | 32- I understand that I am to |
| 8- Close your key; circuit is busy | 33- Car report (Also, answer is paid for) |
| 9- Close your key for priority business (wire chief, dspr, etc.) | 34- Msg for all officers |
| 10- Keep this circuit closed | 35- You may use my signal to answer this |
| 12- Do you understand? | 37- Diversion (Also, inform all interested) |
| 13- I understand | 39- Important, with priority on thru wire. (Also, sleep-car report) |
| 14- What is the weather? | 44- Answer promptly by wire |
| 15- For you and and other to copy | 73- Best regards |
| 17- Lightning here | 88- Love and kisses |
| 18- What is the trouble? | 91- Supt's signal |
| 19- Form 19 train order | 92- Deliver promptly |
| 21- Stop for meal | 93- Vice pres. & gen. mgr's signals |
| 22- Wire test | 95- President's signal |
| 23- All copy | 134- Who is at the key? |
| 24- Repeat this back | |

American Morse ("The Mother Tongue" to landline telegraphers) was designed to be most efficient when sending data in the English language. The Continental Code was developed by the Germans and is thus optimized for the German language. American Morse has the advantage of being 15 to 20 percent faster than Continental Code for the same data, when that data is in English, but has the disadvantage that it is harder to "read" on long undersea cable runs, and over the radio. It is also interesting to note that Morse has a far "richer" set of punctuation marks, which makes it much better for sending "press" copy.

Morse however, is no longer in use except by hobbyists with dial-up-Morse capability and for scientific and historic demonstrations.

The Continental Code however, is still in use daily, all over the world, to transmit ship-to-shore communications, aircraft flight and reporting data (Russia), and by amateur radio operators everywhere. In addition, aircraft navigational aids, pager transmitters, and most unattended transmitters also identify themselves using the Continental Code.

For more info check out:

<http://web.idirect.com/~rburnet/morsetp.htm>

<http://webhome.idirect.com/~rrrobbie/pcode01.html>

<http://www.iea.com/~donf/cwguide.html>

FOR SALE

Available for just the cost of the shipping. an antique 'mill'. a royal typewriter, used by Hub W5UH this is one of the old typewriters that telegraphers used.

Contact : Ralphe Gagnon W5TZR, 45055 east Florida Ave, nr 57, Hemet, Ca 92344-5905, tel 909-927-1785. Write to Ralphe, or send him a CW message via the traffic nets, the RN6 net or ARTS net will get the message to him. Thanks,
73 ARLEY WB5NKC. FISTS NR 1986.

*When You've Worked A
FISTS,
You've Worked A Friend.*

HOW TO GO ABOUT IT EFFICIENTLY

*A Summary To Prepare You To Learn by Bill Pierpont
NOHFF, The Art and Skill of Telegraphy*

Learning the Morse code is acquiring a NEW set of HABITS. It is a skill subject governed by the same principles that apply to learning tennis, shorthand, typing, playing a musical instrument, etc. Regular consistent, repetitive PRACTICE sets in concrete what we do and the way we do it.

Some people have managed to master the Morse code without any help. Others have used poor methods, and both have all too often given up when they came to a plateau, short of proficiency. Today methods are available which almost guarantee success, and a number of fine courses exist using these methods.

These principles are outlined below and will get the beginner off on the right foot and bring him to proficiency. If you are one who has gotten stuck, use them to get back on track. They offer the most rapid way to success in learning the telegraph code and achieving a real mastery of it.

PREPARED -- prepared with the right ATTITUDE, with knowing WHAT to do and HOW do it. This can mean the difference between success and failure.

1) Your ATTITUDE toward learning is crucially important: It is essential PREPARATION for success.

a) have a "CAN-DO-IT" attitude, because it is easy to learn. ("If you don't tell people that learning the code is hard, it won't be.") If you really want to learn it, you can. Approach it as if it were impossible to fail. Motivate yourself.

b) keep a RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, free of tension, pressure, any sense of hurry and anxiety.

c) ENJOY the learning process itself.

d) PICTURE yourself being SUCCESSFUL.

Comments:- Whenever we think of anything as "hard," it creates a stumbling block, and that tends to discourage us. -- Most people find that competition during the initial stages hinders learning. -- In actual reading and copying code, any anxiety or undue concern about "getting it all", or too intense interest in what is being received, or trying to outguess what is coming next, can cause us to miss out some of what follows. -- People who do things well do not struggle with them. -- "Relaxed receptiveness" works.

2) Get your first impression of the code characters by LISTENING to them-- BY EAR -- the way you will actually use them. Throw away all printed code charts and any trick memory methods people offer -

- they will inevitably slow you down and may even discourage you as you advance.

Comments: The reason learning the code by eye or by mental pictures will slow you down is because our visual and auditory (hearing) memories are completely separate from and unrelated to each other. Trying to learn by charts or "sound alike" slows down learning because they make us go through one or more needless steps each time we hear a character. In both cases the mind has to go through a conscious analytical or translation exercise for each signal.

3) From the very first learn to hear each code character as a UNIT OF SOUND, a whole pattern, a "rhythm." At first each character should be sent fast enough (preferably from about 18 - 25 wpm or even faster) for us to hear it as a unit, and with a wide space before and after it.

Never, never try to analyze it into parts. This is most important.

4) THE CODE CHARACTER IS THE LETTER. For example, when you hear "didah" recognize it immediately as being "A" - you are "hearing" the letter "A." Associate the code signal with the printed letter so intimately that when you hear or think of the one, the other immediately pops into mind. Our mental "equation" should be immediate, like this:

"didah" = "A", and "A" = "didah".

Instant recognition is what we strive for.

These four principals are absolutely essential

5) CONCENTRATE ON ONE ASPECT AT A TIME. For example, don't try to learn to block print or typewrite while you are learning to copy.

6) LEARN TO RECEIVE THE CODE ACCURATELY -- this is our primary goal.

In receiving we must wait until each character or word has been completely sent before we can correctly recognize it. We must develop that patient, receptive state of mind that allows us to recognize each character instantly and accurately as soon as it has been completed.

7) Listen only to ACCURATELY SENT CODE. - Accurate character formation - timing - is essential for efficient learning. Proper spacing between letters and words is as important as the correct formation of the characters themselves. and becomes even more important as speeds increase. At first it is best to listen to cassette tapes, computer or keyboard generated code. If you have a teacher follow his advice.

If you listen to poorly sent code you will needlessly distract the mind by forcing it to try consciously

to figure out what the characters are supposed to be. (Once you become proficient, you can learn to read such sending.) Likewise, in the early stages of learning avoid all distracting noises, and interference, such as static and other signals.

Sending becomes relatively easy after you have a good timing sense. It is also easier because you know in advance what is coming next. However, listening to your own sending at too early a stage may hinder learning because the characters are not being sent accurately enough.

8) Plan for regular daily PRACTICE PERIODS. The learner needs to know exactly WHAT he is going to do and WHEN. Make them SHORT ENOUGH to prevent fatigue, boredom or discouragement. SPACE them widely enough apart to let what you have gained sink in. Practice is building habits: let's practice only what is right.

We all have our ups and downs. Some days we will do better than others--this is just a part of normal learning, so don't let it discourage you. It's better to put off practicing to advance at a "bad" time (if you're tired out, sick, down in the dumps). Make practice material enjoyable, interesting in variety and content.

9) LISTENING and COPYING. If you are studying alone, start out by just listening without writing down anything. (See #2 above.) Listen to the signal and say the name of the letter or number out loud immediately after you hear it. After you get familiar with all the letters and numbers so you feel somewhat comfortable recognizing them, then practice writing down each letter or number immediately after hearing and recognizing it (that's called "copying").

Teachers differ on the best way to start out. Your teacher or course may start out having you write down each character as you hear it. Either way is to help you associate the sound with the letter or number. Sooner or later you will want to be able to do both.

In any event, as skill increases we are going to have to learn to copy. At first it will be letter by letter. But that will prove to be too slow as our skills increase. -- In order to advance we need to learn to copy behind: that is, to be writing down what has been heard while listening to what is being sent. This only needs to be a syllable or two or a word or two behind, even at high speeds -- this takes the pressure off. For many people it seems to develop almost automatically as they practice and use the code, but most of us need help. There are several exercises which can help us.

Some hams start out copying everything, and have become so tied to their pencils that they just can't seem to understand anything without writing it down first. That is an awkward way to converse! "Throw Away Your Pencil" is good advice. It forces us to learn to receive by just listening. I knew a ham who for over 60 years couldn't receive without a pencil. When he became almost blind, he had to learn; and he did, very quickly! We need to learn both ways - to copy and to listen. So what if we miss a few words here or there? -- We can still get the gist of it. Remember -- even the best operators sometimes miss a word or two.

10) We gain SPEED by the right kind of practice. It depends on more and more nearly instant recognition, first of characters, then of words and finally of larger units of speech and thought. To advance in receiving speed we must push ourselves. Short bursts of speed work best-- even as short as a single minute at a time, rarely more than 3 - 5 minutes. If you want to increase your speed, listen to code at a speed faster than you can get it all, and pick out all the words you can recognize. In copying, pick a speed just a little too fast for at least part of your practice time. How fast you want to be able to receive is up to you. Set your own goal.

Remember, however, that the goal is COMMUNICATION of intelligence, not just speed for the sake of speed.

11) We advance in skill after mastering the characters by learning to HEAR WORDS AS WORDS instead of just strings of letters. This is the second stage in mastering the code. Most people find it already beginning even while still working to master the alphabet, as they recognize little words like "of" and "the." We need to extend it to include at least the words we use most often. Start by deliberately listening for and practicing them until they become units of sound and recognition-- heard and sent as words.

Our list of 100 most common words is a good place to begin. Practice them by listening to them, and send them over and over until when you think of the word it just seems to flow naturally as if you were reading or writing it. Practicing with these common words seems to help the brain begin to learn to handle many other words as words, too. We can extend this skill by practicing some of the word prefixes and suffixes, such as pro-, per-, com-, -ing, -tion, etc. The bigger the units of sound we recognize as units the easier receiving and sending become. This kind of practice with careful regard for spacing and timing,

will prevent forming the sloppy habits some hams have fallen into as they run the letters of short words together like a single complex character, and also when they forget to space between words. These things make reading and copying very difficult, and as speeds increase, can make it almost impossible.

12) **OVERLEARNING** is the secret of real proficiency. It is achieved when we simply receive and send in code with the freedom and ease that we have when we talk, read and write, virtually unconscious of the code as code at all. One old-time operator, when asked whether the other ham had used a certain word, replied that he didn't remember the actual word—he had the thought clearly in mind, but he couldn't remember the exact word. That is a mark of the expert. From the language arts we learn how people become fluent in a foreign language. It is by **R E P E T I T I O N**. Saying the same sentences over and over, with or without little variations until they become automatic. Or in other words, just **BECOMING SO FAMILIAR WITH IT** that it seems natural. When we reach that point, no matter what our top speed may be, we have achieved a mastery of the code. It is a goal well worth our efforts.

Experience has shown that under normal conditions, like riding a bicycle, once your code skill has reached about 13 or more words per minute (wpm) it is never forgotten. You may become "rusty" but the skill quickly returns.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE ME TO LEARN ? Those who have been taught using these principles and methods have taken from a minimum of one week to an average of about three up to eight weeks to achieve a satisfying 15 to 20 wpm working speed. People are different in background, in attitude, in approach to learning, in interest, enthusiasm and drive, and in what they want to do with the Morse code once they have learned it. All of these factors play a part in the time it will take. The main thing is to **WANT** to learn it, whatever time it may take, to realize that it is **EASY** and to want to **USE** it when it has been learned. Those who just learn it to get a license, and do not intend to use it will probably find it not be useful within a year or two. Yet some of them may even find that it is interesting and really interesting and worth while. Some have done this already.

Code is a pleasure when we know it well. It is an art worth acquiring.

IT IS TO BE ENJOYED

Rendezvous with A Submarine

I wanted to let FISTS know about a wonderful experience I had last weekend. Last month I had a FISTS qso with Dennis, **K6DF**. After our initial CW contact we switched over to 2-meters as we live not far from each other. After a short rag chew Dennis invited me to join him as a guest radio operator aboard the U.S.S. Pampanito, a WWII submarine on exhibit in San Francisco, Ca.

Early Saturday morning we traveled to San Francisco, about a one hour drive, and we chatted on 2-meters along the way. After parking our vehicles and checking in with the Maritime office Dennis proceeded to give me a personal tour of the submarine from bow to stern. He even showed me some areas normally off-limits to the public. Then came the highlight of the trip, the **RADIO** room. Vintage receivers and transmitters were stacked tightly against the walls of the tiny cubicle, there was even an original code-machine used for cryptography. Space was at a premium, leaving enough room for only 2 persons in the "radio shack". Dennis sat me down at the operating position in front of a modern Yaesu transceiver and a Bencher paddle. Thank goodness I did not have to wear those old Bakelite headphones hanging off in the corner HiHi.

For the next hour or so we proceeded to make CW and phone contacts while tourists were making their way down the tight corridors through the submarine. As they neared the radio-room the sound of code and **CQ CQ** caught their attention. More than one of them asked if we still used Morse code! I almost laughed but said "Yes, and we are actually communicating with another station across the country". I found that operating away from my cozy ham shack with a different rig and paddle can be a daunting experience, but with Dennis's kind support I did manage a couple of cw qso's with some VE's. I did not realize until we were closing down that the ship's call "NJ6VT" is a FISTS affiliated club worth 3 points to who ever is lucky enough to contact her. Hey, I should have been calling **CQ FISTS**! To say the least, operating from a ship's radio room, even a tiny one onboard a submarine, is an opportunity of a life time. I will never forget a moment of it. I have to give thanks to Dennis for taking a weekend morning out of a busy schedule just to let me have a turn as "sparks". For those hams not in the San Francisco Bay area they can look up Dennis's web page "www.wco.com/~k6df" to get a look at the U.S.S. Pampanito and other sights as well. **MARK, N6MNZ #4056**

RESULTS NOVICE ROUND-UP 1998

by Dennis K6DF

Novice / Tech Catagory

KC2AFK	TP	David Ruth	4536
KB2QCW	N	Tom Carter	1890
KA1STU	N	Gordon Bennett	1411
KF4HEE	TP	Gary Fowks	756
KB8NTE	N	William Garrett	504
KB3BFQ	N	Eric Bowser	240
KB8OZV	TP	Rose Lubbers	32

Non-Novice / Tech Catagory

W6DDB	E	Bill Welsh	720
AA1SU	E	Paul Gayet	128
NØABA	E	Stan Farley	126
K6DF	E	Dennis Franklin	72
KQ6ES	E	John Simmons	48
HP1AC	A	Camilo Castillo	32
K4YKI	G	Norm Smith	18
WZ8C	E	Nancy Kott	8
KF6GUH	E	Becky Ormond	3

Thanks to all who supported the 1998 NR contest and sent in logs. Some operators who sent in logs counted DX contacts as multipliers. As stated in the NR contest rules, the only multipliers allowed were each of the 50 states, therefore, some of the above scores were adjusted to reflect the proper multipliers. Non-Novice/Tech stations, (Extra, Advanced, General) could only get points for working U.S. Novice and Tech stations.

Everyone that participated in the 1998 Novice RoundUp seemed to be having a good time. From listening on the bands I know that there were more stations that participated in NR than sent in logs. Since log submissions were so low, a FISTS Novice RoundUp Certificate of participation will be sent to all those that submitted logs.

In the Novice/Tech Catagory top score went to Tech-Plus David Ruth, **KC2AFK**. The top score for a Novice operator went to Tom Carter, **KB2QCW**. In the Non-Novice/Tech Catagory top score goes to Extra Bill Welsh, **W6DDB**. Congratulations to our Novice RoundUp Winners, each of which will get a free 1 year membership in the FISTS CW Club.

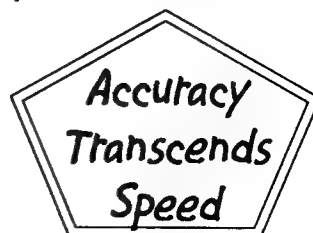
With everyone's help, next years Novice RoundUp will be much bigger and better. The NR is a perfect opportunity for FISTS members to promote more activity in the Novice/Tech portions of the bands, sharpen CW contest skills, and to make new friends in the process. Remember: When you've worked a FISTS . . . You've worked a friend!

Soapbox . . .

Novices this year were as scarce as UFO's, (**K4YKI**).... This one was FUN. Operators were courteous and relaxed, (**KC2AFK**)... Enjoyed time spent, (**KA1STU**)... It was a very enjoyable contest and I am looking forward to participating again next year, (**NØABA**). Maybe the ham radio community should do more Novice contesting to get new hams interested in contesting, (**KB3BFQ**)... I've participated in every Novice RoundUp, (**W6DDB**)...I had a gud 'rag-chew' with each and every one, (**KB8NTE**)... Thanks to the FISTS CW Club for bringing back the Novice RoundUp, (**AA1SU**).

I'd like to add my thanks to all who participated and help promote the Novice RoundUp, and thanks to Dennis K6DF for tabulating the scores and making/ mailing the certificates.

There were a couple comments (from the FISTS, not the Novice/Tech+'s!) about the Novice RoundUp allowing contacts other than CW. Except for shortening the length of the contest, we left the rules as they were when the ARRL sponsored the event. We took over sponsorship to preserve the RoundUp tradition, not turn it into a FISTS only contest, or make it sound like a snobby event, where you HAD to use Morse. As it turned out, only one Novice/Tech+ entrant submitted a log claiming a non-CW point anyway! By not specifying "CW-only allowed", it gives a more welcoming impression to the new hams in addition to giving a less intimidating impression of FISTS. Nancy



DX KEYNOTE

OFFICES

OSL Manager: G0FRL. Bob Lowe
PO Box 190, BOLTON, BL1 4UL.
U.S. Rep: WZ8C. Ms. Nancy Kott
5450 Diehl Rd., METAMORA, MI48455
PRO: G4YLB. JA. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: GM4BAE
Northbrae, Brookfield Cresc, STRANRAER, DG9
OHY

Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

E-Mail: fist1@compuserve.com International Morse Preservation Society

Up-dated listings and badges may be obtained from HQ. For listings, SAE plus current stamp. Badges, £1.50 Obtainable from HQ. £4.00 per 100 or £7.00 per 200. UK and European members add 50p p/p, others on advice.

Your renewal date is printed on your mailing label.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Full or US listing 3 2nd class stamps, EU 2 stamps. No envelope necessary. **Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. Fabric patches £2.50 incl. QSL Cards £5.00 per 100 or £8.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add 50p for p/p. DX members - on advice. Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet (65), max order 5 sheets.**

SUBS: UK £5.00, EEC £6.00, Non-EEC EU, £7.00. Others £10.00.

Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated.

GREETINGS

Hi People. A somewhat active month here in the sticks. Lots of new members processed and I am still getting inquiries. The Winter SK week saw wall to wall FISTS activity on 80m during the evenings and I was privileged to fill in quite a number of blank spaces in the log. OK so some of our members were struggling with the pump handle but in view of the number of Septuagenarians to say nothing of Octos' in the club, it is no surprise. On the whole, a good time was had by all so the exercise was well worth it.

Despite one or two frosts, we continue to be blessed with unseasonably mild weather and, t'would seem, much more than our expected share of rain. This however will not stop the Water authorities from muttering dire threats of drought and stand pipes during the coming Summer. Hi.

Could it be my eyesight or am I sinking into dementia? Last month's reference in the new members list to the Rev Adrian was incorrect. The call is G4GDR. The only excuse I can find for a typo of this nature is that I use the same finger for "C" as I do for "G". Now I'm getting worried because I use the same hand to throw darts that I use to eat a sandwich but so far, I have not been accused of hurling ham butties at the dart board. Hi. Translation (for Southerners and others); a buttie is the same as a sandwich though sometimes different. Work that one out.

This month, the list ran smoothly into 11 pages and is already threatening to reach the bottom of this page. At the time of writing, the total number of active members is a very impressive 3,321. On with the Motrley.

RE: G4LGA

*Hello George,
I hold the USA call of KF6KGX which I use on my visits to the States. I was wondering if you would want to alter my reference in the Fists listings. My UK call remains my primary call of course. I thought I would*

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058
Tues: G00IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058
Thurs: QRS 1900 (loc) on 3575. 2E0AJS
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use G00IPX/P

let you know in case of any confusion in the future. I'll leave it with you, do what ever you think is necessary, if anything at all.

Doing a bit of earwiggling on the Fists frequencies, I am pleased to hear so many new call signs having a go. I'm a little bothered that some of the older hands are not slowing down to the newcomers speed. You know how easy it is to get disheartened George, and thats the last thing we want. Perhaps you would like to mention it in the next "Key Note" We all had to learn!

To end on a high note, we have had a success, over the years I have had the job of teaching CW at our local radio club. Everyone I have taught has passed first time but once they get that "A" licence they all seem to forget about the key. Now Dave (G0WYW) has been bitten by the bug. He has joined us (Fists 3770) and when I was talking to him last time he told me that he had got a couple of pages of his logbook filled up. Keep up the good work. 73's de Don G4LGA Fists 0642

Now then here we have a problem. Not only are your call signs unique and treated thus but also the numbers and I cannot allocate two call signs to one number or indeed two numbers to one call sign. I trust that it will be little trouble to Don to identify himself as G4LGA when using his Yankee call sign but I sure hope it doesn't screw up someone's database. Hi. Point-wise, it is of little difference. To EU stations, he is still worth two points whilst to the US members, it is just one.

THE AGM & THE FINANCIAL BIT

(WZ8C note: The NA report will be ready the end of May)

Cash Flow Report 1/1/97 to 31/12/97

Inflows	--
1996 balance	1,322.40
Badges	63.50

Donations	275.00
Labels	64.00
New Members	617.00
QSL Cards	329.50
Subs	<u>2,926.00</u>
Total Inflows	5,597.40
Outflows	
Compuserve	120.00
Domestic	240.00
Licence	15.00
Postage	1,921.13
PO Box	104.00
Print Sundries	<u>730.46</u>
Total Outflows	4,417.64
Final Balance	<u>1,179.76</u>

You will note that yet again, we managed to make a small loss over the year. This however is not an accurate reflection because included in general heading of print sundries is a double bill, one for January (£163.00) and a further one in October (£191.52). Also included is a toner pack for Bobs' photocopier and a spare toner pack for the laser.

Postage of course remains our principle cost and unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to ease this. Unlike most civilised countries, the Post Office is unwilling to offer special rates for bulk mailing.

Once again, we had a splendid total of donations which more than offset the cost of maintaining club supported memberships. Badges and Labels were somewhat lower than they should be I feel but adding new members to subs, you will readily see where the bulk of our income is sourced.

THE AGM

I am sorry to advise you that your committee is a singularly tight fisted lot and I had to buy my own beer. There were no nominations for offices so you are stuck with the same old brigade as last year and again, there were no visitors - something I had hoped to see but we can't have everything in this world. Hi. G0JBW is trying to organise a field day (on the assumption that we do in fact get some summer) where members will be welcome to pop in and operate GX0IPX/P.

I was about to call a halt to the proceedings when Bob produced a lump of glass and timber from his brief case, handed it to Bill (your president, G2AKK) with instructions to formally present it to yours truly. I was transmogrified. There was a wonderful framed certificate instigated by Bill, GW0SGG, and signed by 35 members who regularly turn up on his QRS net, marking our 10th anniversary with some very kind words. My thanks to Bill and all who added their signatures.

We still have a large lump of brass in the bank account and the way things are going, I saw no reason to modify the subs so for the 9th year in succession, they remain as they were. Is this a record I ask but no... a record is a plastic disc.

THE IRC MOUNTAIN

On the whole, they are a pretty poor sort of bargain. You will be lucky if their redemption value is more than one third of their cost. The Post Office demands in excess of 70p for one but offers a piffling 26p when presented at the counter, a profit margin which would be the envy of many a trader. Yes this is the IRC and since it is largely Radio Amateurs who circulate them, we can be forgiven for forming the impression that we are being targeted as a soft touch. And yet they are a necessary courtesy. A request for a DX QSL would be ignored if not accompanied by the IRC though why the club gets so many requests for information with no thought of the cost of replying even from UK stations who can easily afford to pop a 20p stamp in the envelope is a puzzle.

This all started because I have quite a pile of IRCs (some 130 plus to be more precise) which I prefer not to surrender to the Post Office because of this rip off and they are hereby available to members for 50p each. This will yield a value of five second class stamps for every two IRCs sold and save the purchaser at least 40p. If you use them regularly, give me a bell.

FROM RSGB NEWS

The following items were extracted from a copy of the RSGB news bulletins transmitted by GM4HYF.

Some more records have been achieved on the new 136 kilohertz band. Four stations in south-east England have worked EI0CF who is located at Malin Head, on the northernmost tip of the island of Ireland. On Friday, the 13th, G3LNP in Hertfordshire exchanged 429 reports with EI0CF for the first two-way contact on the band between two different countries. Over the next two days, three Sussex operators - G3LDO, G3GRO and G3KAU - also worked the Irish station. The distance between G3LDO and EI0CF is 673km, and is currently a world record for a two-way on 136kHz. Congratulations to nine year old Jenny Doyle, 2E1FZY, who has passed her 12 words per minute Morse test without a single error in sending or receiving. We understand that this makes her the youngest person to have accomplished this feat - unless any of our listeners know otherwise. Jenny is a member of the Bromsgrove and District Amateur Radio Club and her Morse tutor was John Burford, G4OAD.

SHORT CUTS

I may not be a computer wizard but it surprises me the number of members who describe their hard discs which include expensive and hungry programmes for listing incidental data (telephone numbers, addresses etc.) when a simpler answer is sitting right in their windows folder. Having been along this path myself with a variety of souped up programmes like PIMs (Personal Information Managers) some of which are a pain in the pancreas to open and negotiate, I fell back on a simple text editor (just a little more sophisticated than Note Pad though even that works well).

Enter whatever data you need in a single line or indented

lines (Name, Address, Phone number etc.) together with any other unique identifiers to help if you forget the prime keyword you are seeking and simply use the search facility. Here's an example:

VIC BEAUMONT 01254-777777 LANDROVER SKY TERRIER CACTI

In the above example, the telephone number is the important data so comes first and, should I forget the name, I may well remember that he runs a Land Rover, has a sky terrier and his wife grows cacti. His address appears below on an indented line. A search on any of these words (or part of them) will find the entry - if not then continue the search. Try to squeeze all this information into a database and you will find it becoming extremely expensive in terms of storage and you still have the problem of opening the programme and using the appropriate query language. I use a three-finger short cut (Control+Alt+1) to call up the file which is then presented in it's native editor by default.

CQ TEST

Well perhaps it is not quite that bad but a number of our members are expressing their disapproval of award chasing. Paul, G4BNU devoted a letter to just this subject and "aggressive operating". I must confess I am a little dismayed when I hear this going on though (perhaps because of the club call) no member has treated me in such a fashion thus far. There is no time limit friends. This is not a race or a contest. At least stop and exchange a few words. The one you have been chasing will turn up again and the award when finally achieved will be all the more valuable because of the friends you have made in the process. Many of you will know that whilst I am quite capable of steaming along at a fair rate of knots, I am invariably found pounding the old pump handle at around 18 wpm. This encourages the slower members and has the added advantage that non members at the bottom of the learning cycle are able to copy easily and are thus encouraged not only to use the mode but also perhaps, to foster an interest in FISTS. On being called by a station I know is capable of QRQ, I will revert to the el-keyer and adjust speed accordingly.

THE LAST SUNDAY LADDER

Call	Members	NonMbrs	Prev	Total
G4LHI	26	4	147	181
G0MRH	26	4	67	97
PA3AFF	4	0	67	59
G4RBE	12	0	28	40
G4PTE	20	3	18	41
G0VCY	4	0	18	22
G0WLC	8	0	0	8
G0VYR	6	0	0	6

This list appears to be getting shorter and shorter. Gerry has suggested that we draw a line under it until next January when we can start with a clean slate. I am reluctant to do this without giving you all proper warning so unless the entries improve by next month, I will take it that there is insufficient interest and do just that.

As a point of interest though hardly CW, Gerry points out that there is a MM station with a Pactor mailbox on 14066.93 detailing sailing plans and etc for vessels i.e. Liberty Star from Gulf Ports to Haifa, due Gibraltar 13th. WIDXQ also qrg with MM info and a pactor station as well.

Please do think about the position of the Ladder people. It is the only 'contest' type activity we run, the rest are natter types.

GOSDA

As I mentioned last month, I would like to give a little space to Colin whose view of data modes perhaps differs from the bulk of our members.

"I have a very good friend up in GM land who is fiercely opposed to data modes and after discussing the matter at great length we have agreed to disagree so remain firm friends. He loves CW contests so is immediately at odds with you. What is the matter with some people? They refuse to admit the facts. It was just as bad when the Railways went over to diesel. It was natural progress, totally unstoppable. There were howls of protest from the steam buffs who used the greater efficiency of steam as an argument. That of course was absolute rubbish as anyone would know who has studied the history of the Diesel engine".

"The very mode which we FISTS members love above all others is the first Data Mode. It is a 'coomputer' mode knowing just two states - on and off - on a 3:1 ratio if you do it properly, get it right and don't play your own tunes with a mechanical bug. My friend speaks only English (with a Scots accent) so is he saying that anyone who speaks any other language should not be allowed on the Amateur bands? Those data modes with the exception of Packet are at their very best on HF. They are ideal for noisy conditions and the later ones were written for them because they are error correcting. Is CW? I don't mean the endless strings of machine gun fire that some operators stutter out when they personally make a mistake on the rare occasions that they admit to a mistake that is. You said it Geo, the horse lover whose nag is Fred. I have lost count of the endless CW QSOs which have just died on me. I lost one only today on 40m. A friend and tend to enjoy rag chews lasting as much as two hours. We also tend to have long overs. Perhaps we should not but we do. I don't know how long my friend continued his over, I just lost him in the changing band conditions with he going down as the DLs etc. came up so I switched off and went for a cuppa. Had we been using Pactor, our QSO would have continued because it is auto error correcting".

"Morse is ridiculously slow. That's the joy of it. I enjoy the company of two elderly gentlemen on 80m where we rag chew for at least half an hour every afternoon on CW. I just could not keep going that long with a microphone. five minutes each at the most and each of us would have said his piece. RTTY is mjuch loved by many of the older generation. It came into Amateur Radio via great heavy, noisy, oily clattering machines and it was designed for use over land lines (as was Morse!) not for use on the noisy HF

bands. It was an early data mode which has since been updated by RTTY using modem and coomputerand is the least efficient of data modes. Pactor and Clover are way ahead but RTTY and BARTG are alive and well".

This was one heck of a letter and I will try to catch up with the remainder in a later issue.

WINTER SKW

The SKW generated some 13 logs which is good but not as good as we would have like! The table is as follows and shows their various positions from first to last:-

G4LHI	147	<i>Does this man ever sleep?</i>
G8NT	132	<i>Using the SK trophy key for 1996</i>
G0WAS	130	<i>Nice score, hope cu in LSCWC</i>
G0MRH	112	<i>Psed to hear the mystery key working OK</i>
OZ1EUO	111	<i>Ventured on to 20m for few QSOs</i>
G4JNA	079	<i>Hope gets the 20m d/p fixed for Sept SKW</i>
G0LZA	049	<i>May have the plsr of a QSO one fine day</i>
G4PTE	033	<i>Your 20m ant working fb</i>
G0AXH	031	<i>Welcom. Glad you enjoyed the experience</i>
G4RBE	029	<i>Nice work you agn</i>
G0FVS	027	<i>Hope the eye problem clears up soon</i>
PA3AFF	019	<i>Thanks for QSO</i>
G0VBH	009	<i>Sri But someone always comes in this position</i>

Piet lost some points as some of our members did not give him any info during the QSO such as FISTS number or day number. Feel that this could have been avoided with a little thought.

Must say it was most pleasant to receive so many logs. Remember that the September event of SKW starts at 0001z Sun 6 Sept to 2359z Sat 12 Sept 1998. That's one for the diary and remember that nominations for FIST of the year will be required along with you logs. The nominated stn need not be a member....spread the gospel.

Reading the current SKW logs makes me green with envy when I see the good keys some are using. Still searching for a type D or an old Marconi key which has back terminals for rx muting and six double screw connections down the right hand side of they key. Mine is marked GPO CY 30 and now suffering side slip. Old age affects not only us mortals. Many thanks once again to all entrants for competing.

73 de Gerry

I am grateful to Gerry for the work he puts into these various activities and would be happy to see his efforts more widely appreciated with greater involvement.

NEW MEMBERS

3772	G0WCB	Alan	3773	G0WEE	Joe
3774	G0EML	Ray	3775	9K2RR	Faisal
3776	G10VVJ	John	3777	IZ0AMM	Lorenzo
3778	DL2JAW	Falko	3779	G4DXG	Paul
3780	G0MYP	Dave	3781	G1SDJ	Charles
3782	G4VZF	Peter	3783	G0VLJ	Gary
3784	M0AWN	Chris	3785	G4OGW	David
3786	M0BHS	Mike	3787	G0BSW	Tom
3788	GM4SVM	Don	3789	G4VLW	Roger
3790	M0BNA	Gary	3791	OH2CF	Matt
3792	G3ISK	Keith	3793	ON4UAA	Erni
3794	GM3KHH	Bill	3795	PA3FOY	Jerri
3796	G3SIO	Jim	3797	GSWL1	John
3798	ON4AGY	Pierre			

Well, there's a nice little bundle for your databases and of course, Faisal is our first Kuwait member. The SWL numbers are generated here and prefixed by their country. As these are converted into callsigns proper, they are dropped temporarily and re-called as necessary. We are now up to GSWL5 but GSWL1 and GSWL2 have converted hence the resurrection of GSWL1. Hope this makes sense to you folks. Hi. The aforementioned (John) incidentally is curious about the keys etc., used by members. A lot of folks get the wrong impression about this and think that we are strictly straight key. I am far too dedicated to Morse than to restrict membership on these grounds of course and all manner of keys are in use including (hopefully only by our severely handicapped members) keyboards. If I thought it would enhance the use of CW, I would even encourage the use of a knife and fork. Hi.

In addition to the above, Nancy has booted another huge batch of US members over the web so don't be surprised at some of the high numbers you may hear from the US. Also, as you will note in the Odds 'n Ends article, there are privileged individuals who may operate from the more exotic locations.

SWANSEA RALLY

Those members who are within reach are advised that this event takes place on 19 April. Bill, GW0SGG and a few friends are setting up a double trestle table for FISTS and would very much appreciate any help from other members. I think they have already sorted out a structure for supporting a banner. If you are in a position to offer any positive help then please give Bill a ring on 01792-299510. The venue is the Swansea Leisure Centre and is hosted by the Swansea ARS.

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THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G2FFD. "60 years today since an impecunious schoolboy SWL became 2FFD and enjoyed every minute of ham radio ever since. Code slowed down

and rather clumsy by arthritis but still keen on key bashing." My math is not up to much Dan but by my reckoning, you are now either in your 78th year or approaching it. May you see many more. **G5DM**. Now then Frank... your call is (and always has been) OK on the list. Check your label for confirmation and note that the list is derived from this data. Hi. He found **KG4ZX** (Guantanamo Bay club), **LU1ZC** (Argentinian Dxpediton on S. Shetlands) worked on 7, 10.1, 14, 18 and 24MHz. Other regular Antarctic stns on all three WARC bands are **HF0POL** and **LZ0A**. **HF0POL** is on King George Island and another Antarctic stn who is often heard is **EM1HO** who doesn't seem to know any CW except 599 which he gives to everyone then **QRZ**. Hi. The WARC bands have also yielded **3B8CF**, **8Q7AA**, **BV7FC**, **VR2KF** **DF5WA/6YT**, **9M2TO**, **J28BU**, **D6YN** and **XE2MX** amongst others. Wow! **G3DOV**. "Today whilst listening on 20M to a contact between **K4IZZ** and **W1QBH** I was amazed to hear their comments on FISTS members monopolising 40M and also using 20M. It seemed the bands were for their exclusive use and they found it a great pleasure that they were making things difficult for two FISTS members who were in QSO. At one time, Amateurs had manners!" **G0FVS**. Jim is just one of our number who, when the rig is doing nothing, monitors 500KHz. Isabela persuaded him to invest in a UV lamp to counter a steadily worsening sense of depression and whilst it seemed to be working, its benefits have been countered by natural sunlight. There is a great deal of dialogue going on with respect to this subject in scientific circles and the consensus seems to be that the effects of sunlight is more efficacious than had been thought. **GSWL3**. John, our N. Ireland listener, has me reminiscing with his references to fags at 6 old pence for 20 and beer at 3 op per pint (I can't quite reach back to those heady days) but last month's item 'Signs of the times' was apparently read by a local story tellers club which flourishes over there. **G4BWJ**. Barrie reckons I should be doing the Chancellors' job since he takes a dim view of some of the financial manoeuvres emanating from number 11. "*In the old days, robbers wore masks and were hanged at Tyburn*". Ooooh. Notes the passing of **G4AWI**, perhaps one of the most notable white sticks on the bands. Yes, George was a personal friend of mine and I am pleased to have been instrumental in his association with **FOC**. **G0WAS**. Alan applauds the **SKW** which he describes as just one big party without having to buy the drinks. As you will note from the results Alan, **4LHI** seems to be an insomniac. **G0NUP**. E-mail address noted Kevin and **QSPd** to **W8BL** who is compiling a database for the convenience of all. **G4GDR** delivers a pastoral rocket since last month I did a modification job on his call to **G4CDR**. Sri Adrian. Wouldn't complain if I were you Sir. I am in a constant state of deep konfusion and the more members we get then the more profound it becomes. Hi. **GW0VSW**. Carl sends me a photo of a bunch of members (**GW0UHI**, **G0SDD**, **GW0PPG**, **GW0VSW**, **GW0SGG**, **GW0KZK** and **GW4KUS**

which I regret is no suitable for scanning. Not sharp enough by any means Carl sorry. Seems they had a mini gathering at the Bridgend rally. Index **QRP** with 5 watts unearthed **KB8ZVD** on 20m. **KD6VMY**. Ernie is chugging along with 71 turns on the coil and a letter received earlier this year has just surfaced. Sri about that Ernie. My filing system is a little awry at present with letters being either on box A (the top of the bench) or in box B (the floor). Home is a 8x36' RV since the old adobe was getting a bit much on the maintenance stakes. One of those infuriating people with a real tidy shack which always excites a nerve prompted by conscience in me. I was most taken by his antenna set up on a tower with a 'Create' vee antenna atop a TV rotator. Both legs trapped for 40/10 mtrs and angled outwards with some 26 feet between top of each. Sadly, no longer in construction but the same principle could surely be applied with short trapped verticals? **NBG** for front/back ratio I guess but still steerable.

FINALE

Just a point (again) about the listings people. We are now to 11 pages (close typed A4 with small face) and what with the new ones here in UK/EU and Nancy shovelling 'em in at a frightening rate, the list threatens to overspill into 12 pages pdq. We send a listing to all new members as a matter of course but, if you do have a computer then it is far more convenient to send you the listings by way of disc. Cost you less also. Blank formatted disc (3.5 inch) and return stamp.

Quite a number of our members are using my logging system. If I receive a request for a listing on disc, I tend to include this also since I have no record as to who is running it. The sample entries are now strictly FISTS members with the Date, Bands and Notes fields stripped of data. If you are at all conversant with dBase then it is a simple matter to import this into your existing records and, since my own data has been stripped out, they can stay there ready for updating when the members are worked.

At the present moment, I am hunting for Joe, **G0WEE**, who is **QRV** as **ZD8PW**. Missed him the first day (lot of nothingfulness here Joe) but hoping persistence pays off. Hi.

Bob's task with the bureau is being made more difficult because some of you are still not sorting the cards before despatch. Please sort 'em into call sign v suffix order. It really does help and guarantees last minute despatch where otherwise, they may have to wait for sorting until the following month.

That's about your lot for this month again friends. Remember that nothing succeeds like a Gerbil with no teeth.

73/88 es stay sober

de Geo.

FISTS CODE BUDDY APPLICATION

Mail to FISTS Code Buddy Coordinator: John Cmiel, W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory, Grayslake IL 60060

Your Name _____ Callsign _____

Your Address _____

Your Telephone Number _____ Your Email address _____

License Class _____ Your FISTS Number _____

Are you comfortable at (approximately):

_____ Under 5 WPM	_____ 5 -10 WPM	_____ 10-15 WPM
_____ 15-20 WPM	_____ 20 - 25 WPM	_____ 25-30 WPM
_____ 30-35 WPM	_____ Above 35 WPM	

Are you (check all that apply):

_____ Looking for a Code Buddy slightly faster than you to help you improve?

_____ Looking for a Code Buddy slightly slower than you, to help him/her improve?

_____ Looking for a Code Buddy around the same comfort level as you, to get on the air practice?

Bands You Have Available:

Days & Times you are available to get on the air _____

Special Interests (this helps John match you with someone you might have something in common with):

COMMENTS: _____

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN OUR FISTS CODE BUDDY PROGRAM

FISTS CW CLUB, P.O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE is on your mailing label

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WALS WORLD
By ARNIE MACY, KT4ST

